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Conference News - May



General Synod News



Reverend Elizabeth Mitchell Clement Will Preach

Elizabeth is a member of First Congregational Church, Atlanta and Conference Representative on the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries. On Tuesday, July 5, 2011 Elizabeth will preach at the closing worship of General Synod in Tampa, FL. Reverend Clement has been a significant voice in the formation of the Proposal for Unified Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.

Congratulations, Rev. Clement!

Southeast Conference General Synod Delegates Meet in Preparation for Synod

The SEC has seven delegates ready for General Synod. We are up from three, just a few years ago, reflecting the growth in membership in the Conference. These delegates gathered with several of the Conference representatives elected to represent the Conference on the Boards of the Covenanted Ministries of the UCC, for a time of review and



reflection on the issues before us. The General Synod is a bi-annual gathering of the United Church of Christ. Its delegates are comprised largely of delegates elected from the conferences and the covenanted ministries. There are between 700-800 delegates. Visitors are not only welcomed to be at General Synod, but are encouraged to be a part of this dynamic view of the United Church of Christ. The Southeast Conference is encouraging churches to send as many visitors as they can given the proximity of Synod to our conference this year, and we have pared down our own annual meeting as a part of encouraging people to attend Synod.



This year the Synod will be considering a number of significant actions, including one to unify the governance of the United Church of Christ in the national setting,

UCC News

UCC Newsroom

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

A 'Just Peace' future: Part 2

Following the recently concluded World Council of Churches' International Ecumenical Peace Convocation held in Kingston, Jamaica, United Church News asked Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite to reflect on the history, progress and potential future of the Just Peace movement.



as well as a number of resolutions concerning a range of social justice issues. All of these can be seen at www.ucc.org. The delegation will meet each morning of Synod to review the business before the synod, and reflect together.

OCWM Changing Lives

The Board of Directors wants to thank all of our congregations who participated in Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support in 2010! We received a total of

**OCWM
BASIC SUPPORT /10**

\$280,000 from our fifty churches, and in 2010 reduced the number of churches who gave nothing to OCWM Basic Support from fifteen to eight. Further, we have a growing number of churches who have committed to be Covenant Keepers that is to tithe 10% of their operating budgets to Basic Support. [Link here for continued story.](#)

Sunnyside Georgia Tornado Relief

Members of various churches came together to start work on tornado damaged homes. Through coordination from the Fuller Center for Housing there were four Praxis UCC volunteers, lots of Mormons and a sprinkle of Baptists ready to lend a helping hand in rebuilding. [Link here to see photo images of the rebuild in process.](#)

National UCC Staff, Conference Staff and Volunteers Tour Tornado Damaged Communities in Alabama

SEC Responds with \$3,526 in Initial Gifts

On May 16, Tim Downs met with Florence Coppola, the UCC Executive Minister of National Disaster Ministries and Angie Wright, the coordinator of disaster response in Alabama to tour the tornado-devastated areas, and meet with FEMA staff and local UCC pastors. They visited areas west of Birmingham, and received briefings concerning the loss of an estimated 300 lives, and property damage estimated in the billions of dollars. >> [Link here to read a full update on the devastation in Alabama and how you can help.](#)

Share With Others Across the United Church of Christ

Do you want to share news of the exciting ministries of your church with others across the UCC? You can send a brief description of what you would like to share in the [UCC Calendar of Prayer to Rod Mundy](#) [UCC Calendar of Prayer to Rod Mundy](#) .

The Alabama-Tennessee Association

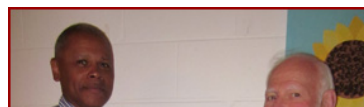


Alabama-Tennessee Association Holds Annual Meeting Hosted by Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga

On Friday May 13 and Saturday May 14, the Alabama-Tennessee Association gathered under the leadership of their retiring moderator Don Clark. The event was organized around the theme of exploring restorative justice, and Sala Nolan of

Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC was a keynoter. The meeting also had workshops on subjects of the Tennessee Death Penalty, Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, Gender, Race and Incarceration, and Torture in our Time.

Following a time of active engagement with the issues, the Association gathered to conduct business, electing Gary Meyers



business, electing Gary Rogers, pastor of Trinity Congregational UCC, Athens, AL as their new moderator. They passed a resolution advocating for reform in the criminal justice system and affirming restorative justice principles.

>> [Link here to read the meeting highlights.](#)



Debbie Douglas, a member of Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, and recent graduate of Eden Theological Seminary, was approved for ordination pending a call by the Alabama-Tennessee Association at an ecclesiastical council on Friday, May 13th.

The Georgia-South Carolina Association



Georgia-South Carolina Association Hold Annual Meeting Hosted by Victory United

Church of Christ, Stone Mountain
On April 16th, the Georgia-South Carolina Association gathered at Victory for its 2011 Annual Meeting under the leadership of its moderator Cornelius Watts.
>> [Link here to read last month's meeting highlights.](#)

The GA-SC Church and Ministry Committee took the following actions:

- Granted a license to minister to Jennifer Spears, who is serving as an associate at Garden of Grace UCC, in Colombia SC .
- Renewed the licenses to minister for: Glenna Shepherd, Jane Acuff, and Kathy Burton, all on staff of Decatur UCC, Decatur, GA.

United Church of Christ Women's Southern Regional Meeting
Blowing Rock, NC,
October 7-9, 2011
[Link to flyer for more information.](#)

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

Steps to Planting a New Church

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